

receive less of a Medicare subsidy than a beneficiary without employer-provided benefits. Without this fix, approximately 94,000 New Jersey seniors and 1.7 million retirees nationwide will likely lose their employer-based drug coverage.

Enable states, if they choose, to administer the Medicare prescription drug benefit through their existing state pharmacy assistance program. This means that my home state of New Jersey could continue to provide prescription drug benefits to seniors through the very successful and popular existing PAAD and Senior Gold programs. As a result, these seniors will not have to enroll in the less-generous Medicare drug program, will be able to remain in PAAD and Senior Gold, and will experience no disruption in coverage.

Ensure that states can provide supplemental Medicaid prescription drug coverage to complement the Medicare drug benefit to seniors who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Currently in New Jersey, 152,000 low-income seniors and disabled individuals who are Medicare eligible receive 100% of their drug coverage through the state Medicaid program. The Medicare bill replaces Medicaid coverage with more limited drug coverage and prohibits states from wrapping around the Medicare benefit with Medicaid coverage. This bill will enable states to completely wrap around through the Medicaid program.

Restore Medicare beneficiaries' ability to purchase supplemental drug coverage through the Medigap program. Under the new law, those who participate in the new Part D drug benefit are prohibited from purchasing supplemental drug coverage through the Medigap program.

Eliminate the premium support (Medicare privatization) demonstration program. This is particularly important for Gloucester, Camden, Burlington and Salem counties in southern New Jersey, which currently meet the qualifications to be selected to participate in this program.

Simply stated, a Medicare prescription drug benefit that chips away at the generous drug coverage that some seniors already enjoy is hardly a benefit at all. The new Medicare law is bad for seniors and should be repealed; but in the meantime, at the very least, we must do no harm. That's exactly what this bill intends to do.

HONORING FRANCES PRESTON FOR HER MUSIC INDUSTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend, Frances W. Preston, or her nearly 50 years of commitment and service to the music industry, spending the last 18 years as president and chief operating officer of BMI, a powerful organization of songwriters and publishers. She will retire in September.

Frances is widely regarded as one of the music industry's most influential executives.

Fortune magazine, for example, called her a "powerhouse" in the business. During her tenure as president of BMI, which represents more than 300,000 songwriters and composers in all musical genres, Frances helped the organization triple its revenues. Last year, BMI distributed \$533 million in royalties to songwriters and composers.

Frances has helped shape copyright-protection legislation both here in the U.S. and abroad. Her business acumen and commitment to the music industry have garnered her the utmost respect. An outstanding advocate for the artists who write songs and compose music, she has helped me better understand music-industry issues during my tenure here in the House of Representatives. I sincerely have appreciated her friendship and candid advice over the years.

Despite her busy and hectic schedule, Frances took part in numerous civic organizations and charities. And she never forgot her Tennessee roots. Instrumental in helping country music become a mainstream entertainment venue, Frances began her career at country radio station WSM in Nashville, Tennessee, and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992. Her service to the industry has been truly remarkable. I congratulate her for her dedication to the industry and wish her well in future endeavors.

HONORING EILEEN DAVIS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eileen Davis upon her retirement after 15 years of service to the citizens of the City of Livonia.

Eileen Davis began her service to the citizens of Livonia in 1989 when she accepted the full time Clerk I position. Over the next 15 years she was promoted twice to the positions of Clerk II and Elections Record Clerk. During this time, she processed rezoning and waiver use petitions, handled the recording of easements and deeds, processed absentee ballot applications, tabulated ballots on election nights, inputted payroll data and supervised the conducting of elections within the City. For a period of 12 years, she was a stellar help to the Livonia City Clerk, Joan McCotter.

Her husband, Donald, and daughters, Lynette and Deanna, should be extremely proud of the undeniable mark she has left on the community. We at home will sorely miss and always benefit from her dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Eileen Davis, upon her retirement after 15 years in the Livonia City Clerk's Office, for her fine service to our country.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, THE EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPA- NESE COMMUNITY CENTER, AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF JAPA- NESE AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand to recognize the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 232nd Combat Engineer Company, 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion, and the many Japanese American men and women who bravely served our country during World War II. I also would like to recognize the leadership of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center for organizing the Cherry Blossom Festival in West Covina, CA in honor of Asian American Heritage Month and in honor of the contribution Japanese Americans have made to the United States of America.

As the U.S. entered World War II in late 1941, many living during that period, including the government, questioned the loyalty of Japanese Americans to the United States. Sadly, thousands of Japanese Americans were heavily scrutinized and sent to live in confinement at concentration camps throughout the duration of the war. Additionally, the U.S. government would not enlist soldiers of Japanese descent into its military, due to its growing distrust of Japan. It was not until February 1, 1943, that the U.S. reversed its decision on enlisting Japanese Americans to the armed forces, as one of the first Japanese American infantry divisions known as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was formed.

Despite their questioned patriotism, many Japanese Americans proudly demonstrated their loyalty to the U.S. by volunteering to defend their adopted country. As loyal American soldiers, they did everything necessary to assist the United States during the war. Whether it be fighting enemies in war-torn Europe, providing the U.S. military with invaluable human intelligence, or engineering and constructing military bridges with unmatched skill, Japanese Americans helped turn the tide of World War II and helped lead the United States to victory in the mid 1940s.

Although not well received by many Americans after the war and sometimes sadly forgotten in today's history books, Japanese Americans serving in World War II should and will always be remembered for their exceptional and invaluable contribution to the well being of our country. As evident in today's Cherry Blossom Festival in West Covina and throughout the nation, these unsung heroes will never be forgotten and will always share a place in American history. They have and will continue to exemplify the excellence in American leadership today.